

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently amended) In combination a split-tip catheter, including a first tip section and a second tip section configured for insertion into a blood vessel, and a dividing element, ~~said dividing element comprising~~ including a bendable body having ~~a proximal end and a distal end, said body comprising~~ a first opening and a second opening spaced apart from one another by a distance sufficient to ensure that an inner surface of ~~a~~ the first tip section of the split-tip catheter is separated from an inner surface of ~~a~~ the second tip section of the split-tip catheter when said body is positioned therebetween, at least one of a proximal portion and distal portion of the body forming an angle with respect to a longitudinal axis of the catheter.

13. (Currently amended) A catheter system, comprising:

a split-tip catheter, including a first tip section and a second tip section configured for insertion into a blood vessel; and  
a dividing element configured to maintain a separation between ~~a~~ the first tip section and ~~a~~ the second tip section of the split-tip catheter, the dividing element comprising a bendable body including a first opening spaced apart from a second opening, the body interposed between the first and second tip sections when at least one of the first and second tip portions is received through at least one of the first and second openings, at least one of a proximal portion and distal portion of the body forming an angle with respect to a longitudinal axis of the catheter.

14. (Previously presented) The catheter system according to claim 13, wherein one of the first and second tip sections is received through both the first and second openings.

15. (Previously presented) The catheter system according to claim 13, wherein the first tip section is received through the first opening and the second tip section is received through the second opening.

16. (Previously presented) The catheter system according to claim 13, wherein the dividing element is interposed between and extends along a longitudinal length of the first and second tip sections.

17. (Previously presented) The catheter system according to claim 13, wherein the dividing element is selectively detachable from the split-tip catheter.

18. (Previously presented) The catheter system according to claim 13, wherein the dividing element is attached to the split-tip catheter during storage and removed before use of the split-tip catheter.